

50X1-HUM

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Extortion Attempts by UB Personnel 2. Prison in Sztum	DATE DISTR.	23 October 1953
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1. Some young UB (Security Police) men at Gdansk, (Danzig) and Gdynia have been arrested for extortion committed in the following manner: The UB men purchased various types of merchandise, mostly furniture, from a state firm and then made a small down payment in cash and gave a bill of exchange (weksel) for the remainder of the purchase price. Before the bill of exchange was presented for payment, the operator of the state firm was arrested by the UB. On failure to surrender the bill of exchange, the operator was imprisoned and subjected to torture and other cruelties until he delivered the bill of exchange and a signed receipt to the UB. However, before the operator was set free, he had to sign a statement to the effect that he had been treated well and that he had no claims against the UB authorities.
2. One of the largest and strictest prisons in Poland is the former German prison located in Sztum, (Stuhm). The prison, which has three floors above the ground level and two below, is composed of small, unfurnished, one-person cells in which six to eight prisoners live. The prisoners must sleep in a sitting position since the cells are so small. There are about 7,000 men, Poles, Ukrainians and Germans, incarcerated at Sztum. The Poles make up the largest group of prisoners with the Ukrainians and Germans next, in the order named. These prisoners are serving long-term or life sentences. They are provided with a half liter of water a day for washing purposes, and a very small food ration, which is fatty and unnutritious. As a result of these living conditions plus poor ventilation, a large number of prisoners have died during the first three years of their prison term.

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